GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:273
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2015
Impact of Dams on Ecological Flow of River Ganga
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Vanaroja Smt. R.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that big dams on the Rivers including Ganga and its tributaries pose major hurdles in maintaining sedimentary/siltation especially in the Sunderbans and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government has identified the projects for reducing the siltation/sedimentation rate in the Sunderbans and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has requested various Ministries including Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Power to tread a cautious approach while allowing the construction of any new dam on the river and if so, the response thereof; and
(d) the other steps being taken by the Government for uninterrupted flow of river Ganga?

Answer

THE HON'BLE MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(SUSHRI UMA BHARTI)
(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STRRED QUESTION NO. 273 FOR ANSWER ON 17.2.2015 REGARDING "IMPACT OF DAMS ON ECOLOGICAL FLOWS OF RIVER GANGA"

(a) & (b) With the passage of time, many new aspects of dams and river system requiring comprehensive studies are coming up. The Ministry has identified the subject of impacts of dams on siltation/sedimentation in rivers for detailed examination.

As regards the Sunderban area in West Bengal, there is no big dam on river Ganga. The Government of West Bengal monitors the siltation/sedimentation in Sunderban area. The State Government has informed that no comprehensive project has been identified for reducing siltation.

(c) & (d) For any large dam, Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (CEIA) is made mandatory component of its Detailed Project Report (DPR). While according environmental clearance to the projects, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change ensure that aspects of siltation and ecological flows of the river are duly addressed in the DPR.